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Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-20

NSC-10 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /181 W
---------- 071688
R 211537Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8263
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3262

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EEC, DA
SUBJ: DANISH VIEWS ON EC COUNCIL MEETING

SUMMARY: DANES ARE OFFICIALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR RESOLVING CURRENT IMPASSE IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS AT JANUARY 7 COUNCIL MEETING. FONOFF HEAD OF EC AFFAIRS SEES SITUATION AS HAVING REACHED SUCH CRITICAL LEVEL THAT MEMBER STATES WILL BE FORCED TO SHOW STATESMANSHIP, OF WHICH THEY ARE CAPABLE, TO AVOID UNACCEPTABLE DETERIORATION IN COMMUNITY COOPERATION. HE DOES NOT EXPECT INTERIM COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE END OF YEAR. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN DEC. 21 MEETING WITH CHARGE AND EMOFF, DEPUTY

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UNDER SECRETARY WANDEL-PETERSEN (HEAD OF EC AFFAIRS IN FONOFF) PROVIDED DANISH VIEW OF THIS WEEK'S EC COUNCIL MEETING AS WELL AS SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON SUMMIT. WHILE HE FOUND NO REASON FOR OPTIMISM OVER DEVELOPMENTS THIS PAST WEEK, HE PHILOSOPHIZED THAT THINGS HAD GOTTEN SO BAD THAT THEY MUST GET BETTER. IN PARTICULAR, THE CRISIS ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND ITS EFFECTS ON OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE YEAR-END "PACKAGE" PLUS ENERGY POLICY SHOULD, HE THOUGHT, DRIVE HOME TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THE NEED FOR AT LEAST A "MINI-PACKAGE AGREEMENT" AND SOME VISIBLE SIGN OF PROGRESS ON ENERGY IN EARLY JANUARY.

2. HE WAS SHOCKED AT PETTINESS AND LACK OF STATESMANSHIP SHOWN BY LEADERS AT SUMMIT DURING BREIF DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THAT FORUM. HE SAID BRANDT MENTIONED A FIGURE FOR THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND SO LOW THAT HEATH PRETENDED NOT TO HEAR. THEN DISCUSSION GOT DOWN TO SHARES EACH MEMBER COUNTRY MIGHT EXPECT, WITH NO REGARD TO PRINCIPLE ON WHICH FUND SHOULD BE BASED. AT SUBSEQUENT EC COUNCIL MEETING GERMANS RAISED THEIR OFFER TO 600 MILLION, BUT STILL FAR BELOW BRITISH AND ITALIAN EXPECTATIONS. NORGAARD THEN, AS CHAIRMAN, OFFERED COMPROMISE PROPOSAL IN WHICH AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED ON FUND FOR FIRST YEAR (E.G., 400 MILLION) LEAVING SECOND AND THIRD YEAR LEVELS TO BE DECIDED IN EARLY 1974. THIS FAILED TO WIN SUPPORT, AND THE WHOLE QUESTION WAS ULTIMATELY LEFT HANGING.

3. RESPONDING TO CHARGE'S QUERY ABOUT DANISH POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, WANDEL-PETERSEN SAID DENMARK CONTINUES TO SUPPORT A FUND WITH RESTRICTED CRITERIA IN WHICH ALL REGIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE PROVIDED THEY MEET CRITERIA. DENMARK WOULD PREFER A FUND AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE BUT WITH CRITERIA PERMITTING GREENLAND TO BE RECIPIENT. IN THE LINE-UP OF SIDES AT THIS WEEK'S COUNCIL MEETING, HE FELT DANISH VIEWS WERE CLOSEST TO THOSE OF THE FRENCH, I.E., GERMAN OFFER TOO SMALL BUT BRITISH AND ITALIAN REQUESTS MUCH TOO LARGE.

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4. WANDEL-PETERSEN SAID FONOFF HAD RECEIVED NO PROPOSALS FOR ANOTHER COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE END OF YEAR. HE ASSUMES REST OF COMMUNITY REGARDS DENMARK'S TERM OF PRESIDENCY NOW COMPLETED AND WILL NOT WANT, OR BE ABLE, TO MEET PRIOR TO JANUARY 7. BY THAT TIME, SOME COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON THE REGIONAL FUND SHOULD BE REACHED TO PERMIT FULL AGREEMENT ON THE PACKAGE. HE DID NOT DOWNPLAY THE DIFFICULTIES OF COMPROMISE ON THE REGIONAL FUND. WHILE

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HE FELT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME GRANDSTAND PLAYING BY BOTH THE GERMANS AND THE BRITISH, THERE ARE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF PRINCIPLE WHICH WILL NOT BE EASY TO RESOLVE. STILL, HE FELT, THEY MUST BE RESOLVED AND THEREFORE WILL; FOR FAILURE TO DO SO COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COMMUNITY AND NO ONE WANTS THAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAW NO PROBLEM ON REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE MODEST FIRST STEPS FOR ENERGY COOPERATION PROPOSED AT THE SUMMIT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. OVER PAST FEW MONTH, WANDEL-PETERSEN HAD BEEN AMONG MORE PESSIMISTIC OF DANISH OFFICIALS ON POSSIBILITIES OF COMMUNITY SHOWING PROGRESS IN GENUINE COOPERATION. ALTHOUGH THIS WEEK'S DEVELOPMENTS PROVIDED NO BASIS FOR HIM TO CHANGE HIS VIEWS, HE TRIED HARD TO PUT THE BEST CONSTRUCTION ON EVENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS. WHILE NOT HIDING HIS INER DOUBTS, HE MADE CLEAR THAT THE OFFICIAL DANISH LINE WAS OPTIMISM. THE STRAINS OF THE WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE SIX-MONTH DANISH PRESIDENCY, PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUMMIT AND PARTICIPATION IN IT, AS WELL AS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING THIS WEEK, SHOWED VISIBLY ON WANDEL-PETERSEN. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY SENSITIVE TO THE EC'S APPRAISAL OF DANISH STEWARSHIP AND TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT TO US THAT NO ONE IS BLAMING DENMARK FOR THE CURRENT STATE OF EC AFFAIRS. BOTH HE AND HIS VERY LIMITED STAFF HAVE BEEN WORKING EXTRADORDINARILY LONG HOURS FOR MONTHS. THEY NOW LOOK FORWARD TO A LENGTHY CHRISTMAS VACATION (FONOFF WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 2) WITH HOPES THAT THE WORLD WILL LOOK BETTER WHEN THEY ARE AGAIN REFRESHED.
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